

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically ~~synthesized~~ modified double stranded short interfering nucleic acid (siNA) molecule comprising a distinct sense strand and an antisense strand, wherein:
 - a. each strand of said ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length;
 - b. the antisense strand of said ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule comprises nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that is complementary to a human huntingtin (HD) nucleotide sequence and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a portion of said HD nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - c. ~~said double-stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises at least two different chemically modified nucleotides~~ about 100% of nucleotide positions in one or both strands of said siNA molecule are chemically modified.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of the antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 9 1, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the ~~double-stranded nucleic acid~~ siNA molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said chemical modification is a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotide, universal base nucleotide, 5-C-methyl nucleotide, inverted deoxyabasic or any combination thereof.